

Give, and the baby buds shall grow  
In childhood's garden plot;  
Give, and the coming years shall show  
Each blossom a forget-me-not.

# YANKS NOW HAVE 400 LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIES

Give, and the dawn of lonesome years  
Shall turn to a springtime morning mild;  
Give, and receive through a mist of tears,  
The blessing of a little child.

## 405 ADOPTIONS IN FOUR MONTHS A.E.F.'S RECORD

Every Branch of Service Is  
Represented on Growing  
List of Parrains

183,819 FRANCS RECEIVED

Aid Has Already Helped to Save  
Mascots' Lives—15 More  
Taken in Week

This is "Four Hundred Week" for the War Orphan Department of THE STARS AND STRIPES. The A.E.F. made a break through on Poverty's fourth anniversary line of defense this week, flanked the enemy, and is still making progress. The number of children enrolled in the A.E.F. war orphan family reached 405, attaining that total in a little over four months, at an average rate of 100 a month.

It was on March 29 that THE STARS AND STRIPES announced its plan to enable A.E.F. soldiers to adopt as their mascots French children whose fathers, in the stern years that preceded America's entrance into the war, died or were permanently crippled in the common fight for liberty.

The A.E.F. hasn't wiped out, at one sweep, all the suffering that the war has brought to the children of France. It has barely skimmed the surface. Our hundreds seem insignificant in comparison with the tens of thousands of children whose fathers made the soldier's supreme sacrifice. We appear pitifully small even beside the list of children made fatherless since we began our modest philanthropy. But we have done, nevertheless, something real and material and lasting in providing these 405 children of ours with care and comfort during the most critical year of their lives and affording them that chance for the future which, in the doctrine of democracy to which we all are pledged, is every child's right.

**Mud and Kids Together**  
On March 29 THE STARS AND STRIPES didn't have as many readers as it has now. Its present reading public is five times as big. But as the most of the original one-fifth of our circulation became pals with the children of France last winter about the time they were also making the acquaintance of French mud, home-knit billy-boys and other atrocities of war.

Hence, it is only natural that 90 per cent of the parrains of these first 405 are from the first one-fifth. The other four-fifths didn't have the opportunity to meet the adorning, brave, chummy boys and girls as we of the first one-fifth did—and the worse for them—they probably never will know them as we do. But it is as much to them that this sum-up of work is directed as to the original one-fifth.

The procedure of adoption outlined at the start has been followed and found successful. As originally planned, the 500 francs decided upon as the ideal amount for supporting an orphan a year has been ample under the rules of the plan. At least half of this was paid out upon adoption, and the remainder within four months. The vast majority of the adoptors, however, have paid the entire amount in advance.

**Paid Out as Needed**  
The money received has been turned over to THE STARS AND STRIPES Bureau of the American Red Cross, entrusted with the selection and care of the children, and placed to the credit of the orphans selected. It is being paid out for the care of the children as needed. The payments usually are in equal monthly installments.

The total receipt of cash is \$183,819.53 francs, which in American money is \$22,249.04. About 15 per cent of this has already been paid out.

The Red Cross bureau is in charge of a committee headed by Miss Marie Perlin, for several years a member of the faculty of the Ethical Culture School of New York. Miss Perlin is of French birth, and she returned here after the opening of the war to engage in war relief work. Dr. R. R. Reeder, the American orphan asylum reformer and children's authority, is an advisory member of the committee.

At the outset, details were worked out to make the administration of THE STARS AND STRIPES fund a model of its kind.

**Twenty Letters a Day**  
The principal disadvantage of many charities—the lack of personal interest—was overcome by facilitating the means for making the contact between the child and its adoptor as close as possible. All parrains are supplied with photographs of their mascot and his or her address. The children, too, are told the identity of their adoptors. Communication between them is encouraged and letters passing between soldiers and their mascots may be sent to the bureau for translation from French into English and vice versa.

At present, what with the stimulus of the observance of July 4 and 14 and the striking work of the Americans on the battle front, the number of letters translated by the committee averages upwards of 20 a day. This is in addition to many that go direct. Most of the letters are from the children to their adoptors. The parrains, it may be said, are not such good correspondents as their godchildren.

**One Child in a Family**  
Many of these letters are glowing, wonderfully worded expressions of gratitude and hope. They have given their readers an unusual insight into French child life, and, from their tone, there can be no doubt that the interest of the Americans has been an inspiration to them.

So great is the number of needy children, it was decided that only one child in each family would be adopted, and that only in exceptional cases will a child who has a mother or other adult relatives be selected. If he is the only child in the family, by supporting one child in a family of several, the others are, of course, indirectly assisted. A compilation made of the first 300 children adopted showed that in addition to the mascots actually enrolled, nearly 500 others had benefited in this way.

At the same time, it was decided that all children enrolled in the family would be given free medical attention through the Red Cross. Children living near Red Cross medical centers are given a physical examination upon acceptance. Physical weaknesses and tendencies are noted and steps are taken to correct them. This already has resulted in an actual saving of life in several cases. On the whole,

THE TOTALS	
Taken This Week	
Prov. Ord. Depot Bn.	1
Hqs. — Division	6
U.S. Naval Airman, — France	6
Hqs. Detach. — Engrs.	1
— Const. Bricklaying Co.	1
U.S. Naval Airman, — France	2
Lt. L. A. MacPherson, S.S.C.	1
Pvt. Frank A. Doble, Inf.	1
Previously adopted	390
Total	405

**By Branches of Service**  
Here is the number of orphans adopted by units of the different main branches of the service of the A.E.F.:  
Infantry ..... 26  
Engineers ..... 55  
Air Service ..... 45  
Hospital Corps ..... 39  
Balloon Sqds. .... 29  
Machine-Gun Bns. 29  
Signal Bns. .... 6  
Naval Air Force ..... 18  
Cavalry ..... 3  
The remainder of the adoptions are by units of various smaller branches of the service — Bakery Companies, the Tank Corps, Stevedore Regiments, Auto Convoys, the Graves Registration Service, Naval Aviators and other Navy units, Telegraph Battalion and others—and two units of individuals, including 22 by officers, six by enlisted men; eight from Y.M.C.A. secretaries, five from the United States and one from England.

The health of the entire A.E.F. mascot family is very good.

**Naval Aviators Come Again**  
This week's adoptions totaled 15, the largest order being from the Naval Aviators at a camp in southern France. Previously, this group of sailor-airmen had taken eight orphans, and this week they requested six more.

From the headquarters of the Division came 800 francs and this explanation from Chaplain D. Tannenbaum:

"This amount was collected from the officers and men of this command on the occasion of a 15th of July concert. It was felt that concrete expression should be given of the friendship we bear France, and no more fitting way could be found than by the adoption of a French boy. He is to be adopted in the name of our beloved commanding general as a token of the affection we bear him."

**WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY**



And the children? What do they think about all this? The letters that follow are their own handiwork, unless the mascots are too small to write and have to call on mothers or grandmothers or aunts to express the thanks which they all feel, even if they cannot put it into words.

"Yesterday," writes Lucienne Ballue, from a place that happens to be one of A.E.F.'s base ports, "I was thinking about you. Your Memorial Day was being celebrated here, and our dead and yours were united in our hearts."

"I am not always a very good little girl," frankly admits Mariette Laflite, "but I will try to be so to please my father, who can see me, and also to please my godfathers, who cannot see me."

"There are Americans here. When I meet them I say 'Goodbye' to them in English and they answer 'Goodbye' with a laugh. They seem very kind. I should like you to be here. I am learning how to speak English, but I know almost nothing yet. But I do know how to say 'Thank you' to you, and I love you very dearly."

"Hurrah for America!" writes Raymond Ares at the head of his letter, and he begins: "Dear Allies." This father, who was killed in the war, used to run a restaurant at Nancy, but an enemy bomb destroyed it.

"The American soldiers used to do their cooking near me," writes Raymond, "and they gave me all sorts of nice things because I told them that my daddy also was a cook."

"America," writes René de Jarlet des Chatelets, "is said to be a very pretty country where trees are much bigger than in France. My aunts often speak about it. Their great-uncle was bishop of Boston over 100 years ago. He was Monseigneur de Chevreuse, who died in 1836, cardinal archbishop of Bordeaux. He loved America." So, apparently, does René, who is not yet 10.

**Confiture for Aubin**  
The parents of little Aubin Robert will be pleased to know that his money has been put in the bank, but not before his craving for confiture was gratified. His widowed mother writes:

"My little Aubin is a frail child and needs constant care. It is he who made me smile when I was crying, and I hope, he will be happier than I was. He has been going to school for three months, and the first letter which he will be able to write will be for his parrain."

While Aubin is too young to write himself, I shall have his brother write for him. If you think it advisable, I shall take a book at the Savings Bank for little Aubin and tell you what I mean. I put down in it, as for the rest of the money, Aubin is a little chap who likes jam so much! I shall indulge his taste for this once, as it is quite well and already out of his head—here are still other letters."

**Works Well for Daddy's Sake**  
My Dear Friends:—I was very glad to hear that you are interested in my welfare. I was seven on March 5th. My father was killed at Verdun in 1916 and mother died last year. I am a little orphan who has only his grand-mother and a sister, also a widow since the war, who has a little girl, and an uncle who is engaged as interpreter for the Americans.

## HIS OUTFIT



**To Pay Back His Sister**

My Dear Parrain:—I send you two words to let you know that I am well and I hope you are the same. I thank you very much for your kind gift and your interest in my sister. I also hope that you have received my picture; you will see that I am a good boy. I go to school every day to learn how to read and write, and when I am grown to go and defend my country. I shall eat well so as to grow strong and tall and to become a well-educated boy, polite to everybody and respectful to old people.

We are living in a refuge, the same as soldiers do, and have to go for our soup twice a day. Well, it is not bad. I am a total orphan. Mother died five years ago, and father when war broke out had to do his duty and left us all four; my sister, who is now 18 years old, my brother, who is 16 and is in invaded country, and my other brother, 13 years old, who also is in invaded country with an aunt and myself.

My father was very much grieved to leave his motherless children. After a stay of three months at the front he came back to see us and afterwards he died. I am living with my mother's sister, who supports me, but when I am grown I shall give everything back to her.—Your loving mascot, Andre Jacquere.

**She'll Soon Write Herself**

Dear Sirs:—It is with great pleasure that I give you news of my dear little Marie-Louise. She goes to kindergarten every day without grumbling, and she looks forward to the day when she will be able to go to the big school because, she says, "I shall then be able to write all alone to my dear parrains."

When she hears an automobile rushing by, she runs to see whether it is a parrain American. If a little friend passes her a bit at play, she immediately tells about reporting the fact to her parrains. Americans. She is very proud to be your mascot. She will be happy to scribble a few lines. With my best thanks I am, dear sir, Yours very truly, Jeanne Patriarche.

**Afraid of His Writing**  
Dear Benefactors:—They tell me I have been chosen as your little ward, and I want to thank you for it. My dear parrains, I am eight years old and I go to school every day. I learn how to read and write. I only began this year to attend school. Before that time I could not see, but now I must learn quickly in order to help Mother a little, as Father, who earned our bread, was killed at Guorbigny, in the Somme, on March 12, 1916.

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## NEED ANY MONEY? DON'T ASK DOBLE

He Used to Be Platoon's  
Emergency Reserve  
Fund, But—

Private Frank A. Doble belongs to a company which has written American history with the bayonet in the last few weeks. He has gone into and come out of all the hot scrammages in which a crack infantry regiment can participate in these lively days.

He is the kind of a fellow who is—or was—always good for a touch if you kept your credit good. He was generally known to be in possession of francs three weeks from payday, he didn't shoot crap and he was regarded as a conservative spender.

One day, a fortnight ago, Private Doble went broke! If the United States Treasury had stopped payment on silver coins, it wouldn't have created more of an impression on the members of his platoon.

**And About the Same Time**  
About the same time the War Orphan Department of THE STARS AND STRIPES received a draft for 300 francs with a letter from the Y.M.C.A. saying the amount was being transmitted for Private Frank A. Doble, Co. M., Infantry. There was no further explanation. The letter was put aside awaiting word from Private Doble—which hasn't come yet.

The day after the bankruptcy of Private Doble was discovered Company M went into action, and it didn't think any more about Private Doble's strange financial condition until it came out again and began to hold the customary franc inventory. It was then that Private Doble confessed that he had gone and spent the whole platoon emergency reserve fund for a little French war orphan.

Some of these days, after Private Doble negotiates a razor blade through seven days' beard and corners and captures the last cent, he is going to write to THE STARS AND STRIPES about this orphan, requesting, undoubtedly, that his name be not printed. But we're going to beat him to it.

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**Watches Americans Land**  
My Dear Sponsors:—It is with a big heart that I write to thank you for your kindness in taking me as your little ward. I am eight years old and go to a private school; I am in the fourth class. I like going to school very much. After school, I go on errands for Mother, or else I play with my doll, or a ball, but I like my doll best. I put her to bed and dress her very often. I love going to watch the Americans land; I try to talk to them, but I cannot understand what they say. They remind me of my dear father, who was a Lieutenant of Infantry and who was killed at the Dardanelles on May 4, 1915, leaving mother with my sister Yvonne, who is 13 years old, my brother Charles, who is 13, and myself, and also grand-mother, who lives with us and is 86 years old.

I leave off, dear sponsors, with a big kiss for you all and with heartfelt thanks. Your little ward, who will not forget you, Madeleine Pellon.

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